



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

Serving the 7th District | P.O. Box 30036 | Lansing, MI 48909
PHONE: (517) 373-7350 | TOLL FREE: 1-866-262-7307 | FAX: (517) 373-9228
WEB: www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson | E-MAIL: senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov

05/26/06

→ PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO A FRIEND!

Sen. Patterson to speak at Trenton Memorial ceremony

On Saturday, May 27, at the end of the Memorial Parade, Senator Patterson will speak briefly on the significance of the day for all who live in the United States. The concluding ceremony will be conducted at the Trenton Memorial Library. It will take place at about 11 a.m. Good weather is expected for the parade honoring our fallen American Heroes.

New laws require permit to demonstrate at funerals

Legislation was signed into law recently that allows a permit to be required to demonstrate outside a funeral home, cemetery, church, synagogue, or mosque where a funeral or memorial service is taking place.

Senate Bill 1199 allows local units of government to require protestors to apply for and be issued a permit in order to demonstrate outside a funeral. A permit would not have to be issued if the service is on private property, and one may be issued if the service is on public property. Additionally, the local government may charge a fee for the application and issuance of a permit.

“This is not to deprive anyone of First Amendment rights; but there is a time and place for everything,” said Sen. Patterson. “The natural right of a family to bury their beloved in a calm and peaceful atmosphere also deserves everyone’s respect.”

Traveling this weekend?

Michigan’s Department of Transportation [MDOT] updates information on road conditions and roadwork (none active for Memorial Day: Orange cones were given the weekend off). Check your route on www.michigan.gov/mdot to see what you may encounter. And drive safely!

Memorial Day: *Take some time: Remember our Fallen.* Honor them; help their families.

Camping in Michigan

Senator Patterson is making copies of a guide book on camping in Michigan available around the district. You will be able to pick them up at public libraries and town or township halls in the next week. They are prepared by the Department of Natural Resources, and are free. The DNR’s Parks & Recreation office phone is (517)-373-9900

to request a copy of the guide; if you don't want to wait, or go out to pick one up, you may also use this weblink and print your own copy:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_14724-88991--,00.html

You can also access more information about Michigan's state forest campgrounds, parks and recreation areas at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365---,00.html> and even make on-line reservations at: <http://www.midnrreservations.com/>.

Senate votes to protect Michigan's forests

Bipartisan legislation to help the state's timber industry won passage in the Michigan Senate recently. The bills would promote better management of private and state forests and would create tax exemptions for private landowners, who hold a majority of the state's forestland.

Michigan's timber prices have risen to be among the highest in the nation because of supply shortages and increased demand. The high prices threaten the Michigan industry and the many jobs it provides. The industry employs about 200,000 people and contributes \$12 billion in economic activity. Michigan's timberland acreage is the nation's fifth largest with 19 million acres.

Both Chambers work through budget legislation

This week, most legislative attention was focused on budget bills. Each chamber approaches the budget differently, making for a more thorough review. It is hoped that a better result is obtained. It is expected that differences will be resolved in conference.

Beat the Heat and *Save*: Hot Tips for Staying Cool

Did you know?

The closer the indoor temperature is to the outdoor temperature, the lower your overall cooling costs will be. Each degree you raise the thermostat can save up to 3-5% on cooling costs. Many of the same techniques that save energy in the winter also help in the summer. For example, insulating, caulking, and weather-stripping help keep the heat out in summer and the heat in during winter.

With warm weather upon us, we find ourselves running for ways to stay cool. The Public Service Commission offers the following steps as some of the ways home-owners and businesses can take to reduce energy consumption, stay cool, and *save on energy bills*.

Cooling Tips

- * When the temperature is moderate, turn off the air conditioner, open windows, and use fans.
- * Close curtains and shades on windows during the day to keep the heat from the sun outside rather than inside.
- * Consider using a dehumidifier instead of turning on the air conditioning.
- * Get rid of the hot air. *For example*, use an exhaust fan to blow hot air out of the kitchen while cooking.
- * Avoid activities that add heat or humidity to your home during the hottest parts of the day. *For example*, use your dishwasher during the cooler part of the day or simply let dishes air dry rather than use the dishwasher's heater.

Use Air Conditioning Efficiently

- * If you must use air conditioning, set the room thermostat as high as possible. Believe it or not, 78° is often considered a comfortable indoor temperature.
- * When leaving a home or building for more than five hours, raise the thermostat 5 to 10°, or use a programmable thermostat.
- * When possible, locate a window air-conditioner, or the compressor unit of a central air-conditioner, on a side of a home or building that is shaded. Direct sunlight falling on an air-conditioning unit increases its workload.
- * Keep the compressor unit of a central air-conditioner free from leaves and other debris that can clog vents.
- * Keep cooling systems well tuned with periodic maintenance by service professionals. Clean or replace the air filter once a month or as needed.
- * Shut the vents or close off unoccupied rooms. Doing so can save 5-10% on your cooling costs.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan Public Service Commission

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Around your home or business

To block solar heat in the summer but let much of it in during the winter, plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of a home or building.

Shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around a home or building and can reduce the surrounding air temperature.

A hedge can be planted to shade a sidewalk or driveway and keep solar heat from being absorbed by the concrete.

Climbing vines on a lattice or trellis can also be used to shade areas around a home or building – while admitting cooling breezes to the shaded area.

Other Electricity Saving Measures

Use electric ovens, dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers, and other large appliances or office equipment in the early morning or late evening hours whenever possible. These are big electricity users and shifting the time of use will reduce the potential stress to Michigan's electric system at peak times.

If possible, replace older, inefficient appliances with updated models. If purchasing a new appliance or air conditioner, look for an "Energy Star" logo, which indicates a high efficiency product.

Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

Take advantage of federal tax credits that are available for home energy efficiency improvements made in 2006 and 2007. Tax credits of up to \$500 are available to customers who purchase and install energy-efficient windows, insulation, doors, roofs, and heating and cooling equipment. Credits vary according to the improvement made.

For more details on the tax credits available, visit the U.S. Department of Energy Web site at www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm.

Some additional tips for businesses include:

Set fax machines and printers for sleep mode when not in use. Also, network one printer for several users.

Make sure the power management feature is enabled on computers and set to the shortest acceptable time for your operation. Also, use laptops in lieu of other personal computers.

Turn off copiers and computers (or at least monitors) at night and during the weekends.

To Learn More

Additional information can be found online at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/> and www.michigan.gov/mpscalerts.

Trenton Breakfast enjoyed by good crowd



John Ghindia of Trenton (seated), Mayor Jerry Brown and Sen. Bruce Patterson discuss senior issues after breakfast, May 19. Over thirty heard Joan Rich and Lt. Rick Miles speak on safety.

Office Hours schedule for June 2006

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

No office hours are scheduled for May 29th – MEMORIAL DAY.

June 5th -- Sumpter Twp Hall, 23480 Sumpter Rd., Sumpter Township

June 12th-- Woodhaven City Hall, 21869 West Road, Woodhaven

June 19th-- Flat Rock Library, 25200 Gibraltar Road, Flat Rock

June 26th-- Huron Twp. Hall, 22950 Huron River Drive, Huron Twp

– This will be in their new building.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!